



*An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna*  
*Courts Service*

Mr Edmund Honohan  
Master of the High Court  
Four Courts  
Dublin 7

8 January 2019

**Ventilation and damage to windows in the Master's Court in the Four Courts**

Dear Mr Honohan,

I refer to your letter to me dated 21 December 2018 concerning ventilation in your courtroom. This is the first time that concerns about ventilation in this courtroom have been brought to my attention or that of the Estate Management Unit.

I was made aware in December 2018 that three windows above the door of the courtroom had been broken. I understand that you have stated publicly that you did this. It is not acceptable that court premises should be damaged in this way. It represents a danger to health and safety both to yourself and to persons in the area. The repair of such damage has cost €340 and this represents a waste of the scarce resources of the Courts Service.

There is an air conditioning system within the courtroom which should be operating when the court is sitting. In relation to the windows which are not opening, the Estate Management Unit is making arrangements to fix both the external windows and the high level internal windows so that they can be opened. If there are issues of privacy when family law matters are being heard in the courtroom the use of the air conditioning system alone should be adequate.

If you have any further concerns about the ventilation of the courtroom these should be brought to the attention of the Estate Management Unit. If there is further damage to these windows we will seek reimbursement of the cost of repairing any damage done.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Burns  
Head of Infrastructure Services Directorate